

Abstract

The present invention provides a lookup service for shorthand terms directly from within an application. A lookup pane is provided to the user from which they can lookup a definition for the shorthand term. The lookup pane provides a
5 consistent user interface for looking up shorthand terms from within a suite of applications. After entering a shorthand term, a dictionary of shorthand terms is accessed to determine the definition. If desired, the user can choose to insert the definition of the term directly into a document. The lookup service is provided directly to the user without the user having to open a web page and search for the term.